

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, South Dakota was founded with hard work, perseverance, dedication to duty and concern for one's fellow man; and,

Whereas, Gene Abdallah has dedicated his adult life to public service through multiple branches of federal, state and local government, especially in the area of law enforcement; and,

Whereas, In March 1982, President Ronald Reagan appointed Gene to serve as South Dakota's 17th U.S. Marshal—and Gene retired in 1994 as one of the state's longest serving federal marshals; and,

Whereas, Early in Gene's career as a federal marshal, he recognized the need to organize an event to bring all levels of law enforcement together to share stories and foster friendships, thus the South Dakota Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner was born; and,

Whereas, The first dinner had 53 attendees and due to Gene's lifelong devotion to needy children, has evolved into an event where local business and civic leaders are invited as guests to join with law enforcement employees to offer support and donations to children's charities throughout South Dakota; and,

Whereas, In celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the South Dakota Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner and Charity Fundraiser, it is fitting that a milestone has been reached with the collection of over \$1,000,000 for needy children of South Dakota; and,

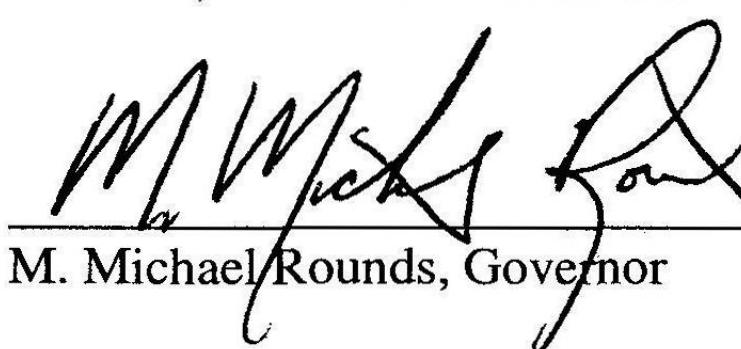
Whereas, It is further fitting and proper as governor of this great state that I recognize and honor the recently re-elected, Senator Gene Abdallah, who has made this occasion for celebration possible:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim November 15, 2006, as

GENE ABDALLAH DAY

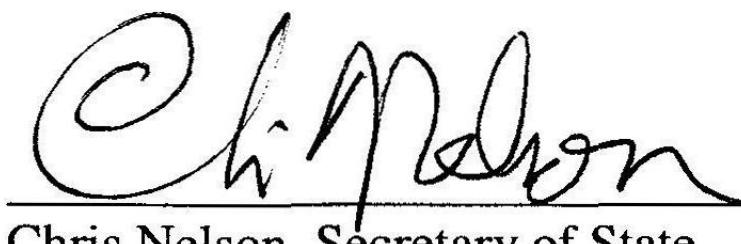
in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Ninth Day of November in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.



M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:



Chris Nelson, Secretary of State

